

MICROELECTRONICS PATENT COMMITTEE INVENTION SUBMISSION

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TITLE: Remote Configuration of Wireless Telephone Products

IP LAW USE
 Submission No: 101926
 Date Received: 11/3/00
 Attorney: JPV/Sch

Important Notes: (1) Keep in mind that your submission should be written so it can be understood in 5 to 10 minutes by a generalist. Avoid the use of undefined acronyms and jargon. Keep the language simple. (2) Have any of the above submitter(s) discussed this invention with, or provided an invention submission disclosing this invention to, an attorney other than the recipient of this invention submission? YES X NO

1. Describe the problem your invention solves:

As cordless and cellular telephones provide more customizable features, User's manuals and setup menus are getting more and more complicated. Additionally, if a user purchases two or more of these identical products; there is no way to setup one phone and have the setup copied to any additional phones.

2. Based on information of which you are already aware, describe:

(i) previous attempts to solve the problem your invention solves:
 LCD menu systems and User's manual

(ii) the disadvantages of the previous attempts:

LCD menus are on a per phone basis, and need to be repeated for each phone. User's manuals are getting so big that more and more users do not read them.

3. Summarize (30 words or less) the new feature(s) of your invention that solve the problem:

This is a process patent invention that allows for wireless telephone configurations to be set up remotely. This process would include the user going to a manufacturer's Internet web page, where by entering their phone # or account # he/she they would be able to customize their phone (i.e. address books, ring types, caller ID based options, etc...) at this remote location. This invention also allows for configuring your phone via e-mail, another phone, or another remote device such as a PDA.

4. Succinctly describe your invention, referring to drawings, sketches, photographs, etc., in sufficient detail to enable one knowledgeable in the invention's field of technology to understand construction and operation of the invention. Drawings, etc., should show only those features necessary for an understanding of the invention. Describe how/why your invention overcomes the disadvantages noted in 2. (ii) above.

Wireless phones (cordless and cellular) have become very feature rich, and this directly translates into a more complicated configuration process. Telephone manufacturers have developed elaborate User's Manuals and menu schemes to allow for

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the user to exercise all of the phone's features as easily as possible. However, as more and more features arrive, this customization will only get even more difficult for the manufacturer to make user friendly.

Features such as Caller Announcement, Caller ID based ringing, Caller ID based OGMs, Caller ID based Announcements, and ever-changing area codes require the user to change the configurations at an ever-increasing rate. Phone manufacturers previously did not expect the user to change their configurations very frequently, but today it is not the case.

It is desirable for a phone manufacturer to provide the user with the ability to enter and change all configuration data as easily as possible. It is also desirable for a phone manufacturer to provide the user with the ability to copy such configurations across multiple phones, especially if they are identical models, but even if they are not. This invention is primarily focused on the process of providing a web page that would allow for the phone manufacturer to meet these desires. The phone manufacturer would store all relevant setup data based on the user's phone number or account number. The user could simply go to the designated web page, enter the phone number, an access code, and then be provided with the ability to easily change any and all setup parameters. These parameters could be changed from any location that provides Internet access.

If the user owns a cellular phone, the manufacturer would update the user's phone with the new parameters via a data link, such as that which currently exists on digital cellular phones.

If the user owns a cordless phone, the manufacturer would update the user's phone with the new parameters via a dial in connection to the phone's modem.

Updating of new data could be automatic, scheduled, and/or setup to retry at a designated rate until the update is complete. The manufacturer could even e-mail the user with the status of the update.

The phone manufacturer (or third party vendor) could provide the user with the ability to copy a configuration from an existing account. This option could also be just for a part of a configuration (i.e. address book).

Although, the primary process interface is a web page; it is also part of this to provide for the ability to update configurations via e-mail. This could be done by having a template e-mail with entries for configuration configuration changes. There could be features within an e-mail editor to do a "Quick Address" in which a new contact could be easily e-mailed to your phone. Once the e-mail is sent, the phone will be called and the user can download changes.

Alternatively, Also it is possible to copy one phone's configuration to another phone via a direct link between the two units. As an example:

- a user has entered the desired configuration on his cellular phone.
- Stepping through all the menus to get the phone address book, and all the other configuration parameters the way he wants it has taken about 30 minutes.
- He also has just purchased the same cellular phone for his wife for Christmas.
- She does not want to take the time to configure her cell phone, but she likes how his was configured.
- Now the husband doesn't really want to have to re-enter all the same info again. Therefore, he goes to his cellular phone; finds the menu item to "COPY SETUP".
- Next it asks for what phone number, so he enters his wife's cell phone number.

*** Provide the information requested in this box on each page of the submission, as well as drawings, sketches, photographs, etc. ***

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- Once he enters the option his phone makes a connection with this wife's phone (e.g., if link directly, if link through the service provider, IR link, or other means).
- She receives a text message prompting for a configuration change. She can accept or reject this request.
- If accepted, the data is transferred and the setup is completed.
- Otherwise the configuration is not transferred.
- The husband sees a status message on his phone (ex. TRANSFER DENIED, TRANSFER IN PROGRESS, TRANSFER COMPLETE).
- The link is torn down once the transfer is denied or completed.

An alternative implementation would be through an automated voice prompt system where data is entered via touch-tone keys.

5. Advantages of your invention:

- Adds a tremendous amount of user-friendliness to phone manufacturer's products
- Allows for remote configuration of feature rich phones via web pages
- Allows for remote configuration of feature rich phones via e-mail
- Allows for remote configuration of feature rich phones via a direct connection between 2 phones
- Allows for easy configuration of identical phones, without having to repeat data entry
- Cellular Service Providers (Bell Atlantic Mobil, Cellular One, etc.) can offer this as a selling point to use their service.
- Enables user to maintain minimal knowledge of phone setup and enables another to maintain features remotely.
- Adds value to Lucent's cell phones and wireless provider equipment.

6. Explain how use of your invention would be detected:

Feature would be clearly advertised on the box or by the service provider as a big selling point.

*** Provide the information requested in this box on each page of the submission, as well as drawings, sketches, photographs, etc. ***

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